CURRENT SPORTING GOSSIP

FREEDMAN'S ALLIES ARE CLAM-ORING FOR SPALDING.

Soden, Conant and Billings of Boston Ready to Strike Their Colors-Popularity of the Game of Hookey-Prosperity of the Betting Commissioner.

The Boston National League Club has become panie stricken. Soden, Conant and Billings are about to renounce their allegiance to Freedman, Brush and Robison and will line up with A. G. Spalding in his fight for clean ball and sportsmanlike methods. The Boston triumvirs have at last seen the handwriting on the wall and are anxious to get in out of the wet before it is too late. The fact that Spalding has secured backing for a new club in Cincinnati to displace Brush and the positive statement made by THE SUN last week that he has practically organized a new club in Boston, have so stirred up Soden & Co. that they have decided to strike their colors. even though Soden still owns \$30,000 worth of stock in the New York club. This information comes from high authority and is based upon the contents of a letter that Soden wrote the other day to John I. Rogers of the Philadelphia club. The Boston men, fearful of further competition, feel that it is to their advantage to climb into the band wagon. But is it not too late? It is not untrue to say that Spalding has been very bitter toward the Boston triumvirs for their behavior at the recent meeting in this city. Before the magnates went into session Billings pledged the Boston club's vote in favor of Spalding and then urged Spalding to make his campaign. Billings said Soden would cast the vote. Soden was ready to do so until Freedman sent a barouche around to Conant's hotel for the latter to take a free ride in Central Park. Then Conant got hold of Soden and the latter threw Billings down. Spalding got very warm under the collar and it is believed that he will not listen to any kind of a proposal from the Boston trio for peace.

In the meantime Brush is working two ends against the middle and so is Robison. Both of them are sticking to Freedman in public but they have been working the underground wires to get next to Spalding. underground wires to get next to Spalding. Brush is too clever a baseball politician not to realize that Spalding holds the whip hand. It was not so very long ago that Brush and Freedman were deadly enemies. Brush resorted to various measures to get Freedman out of baseball and, failing, he knelt at the New York man's feet, asking for friendship. Brush said he did this for the good of baseball but it did not do much good as recent events have shown. Bert Dasher, who is a close friend of Brush said the other day:

"Brush has the same opinion of Freedman that he always had. But he's been jollying the New York man in order to have winning ball in this city. If Brush sees his way out of the present tangle he'll desert Freedman as quick as a wink."

What is Brush doing in St. Louis? Will

desert Freedman as quick as a wink."

What is Brush doing in St. Louis? Will he sell his baseball plant in Cincinnati to the Spalding people there? Does he need the money? Why has Brush been sending telegrams to men who can get to Spalding for him? Does Brush show his private correspondence on baseball affairs to Freedman? Is Freedman up to snuff or is he placing faith in the men who are supposed to be with him in this fight? These questions are of interest to those who are watching every phase of the base

"RECEPTION" FOR JEFFRIES. Delaney Precedes Champton Here and Ready to Arrange a Fight.

If the plan outlined by Billy Delaney, manager of Jim Jeffries, does not misoarry the public in all probability will know soon who is to be the champion's next opponent in the ring. Delaney arrived in town yesterday afternoon from Chicago. The brawny boilermaker did not accompany Delaney. but, according to the latter, will probably reach this city this morning. Delaney left the champion three days ago at Kansas City. Delaney's idea to bring the heavyweights in line is original. Delaney will hold a sort of reception, or "pink tea" as he terms it, this reception, or "pink tea" as he terms it, this afternoon at Councilman Foley's cafe, Franklin and Centre streets, between 4 and 5 o'clock. All challengers for Jeffries's title will be asked to meet Delaney or Jeffries there and discuss the chances of an encounter. Delaney is sure of one thing and that is, the session will develop whether the aspirants for Jeffries's laurels are bluffing or not. Delaney is stopping at the Vanderbilt Hotel. In a talk with THE SUN reporter last night he said:

"Jeffries, as well as myself, is anxious to find out what this alleged fighting talk on behalf of the other big men really means. Jeff is no longer an actor; he is a pugilist pure and simple. He wants to scrap and that is why l am here and why he is coming East. I've heard a good deal regarding Fitzsimmons lately If he means to fight Jeffries again it is good news. Naturally, Jeffries would rather take on Fitzsimmons in preference to any other man, because a match between the two would draw a large gate and give the sport new life. Then, again, it would set at rest the impression as to whether their contest at Coney Island a few years ago was a true test so far as my

man is concerned.
"Tom Sharkey has posted, so I have been informed, \$2,500 to fight Jeffries. If that is so he will have the next chance, should it come to pass that Fitzsimmons is out of it.
"Twenty-five hundred dollars is large enough for a forfeit if the money is really up. Jeffres will give Sharkey a fight just to prove that he is his master. At Foley's to-morrow afterneon all legitimate challenges will receive recognition. It is our desire that all those in earnest about fighting Jeff should be on band. No bluffing will be tolerated, and the money must be in evidence before we will talk business.

must be in evidence before we will talk business.

"Ever since Jeffries and myself joined hands again I have made it my plan to make matches. Before our split, due to his desire for the friendship of Tommy Ryan, he fought nine times. There was no acting in it. Now, I intend to adopt the same methods, and it will be fight, fight, until some man comes along and whips him. Jeffries is a young man, strong and vigorous, and should not wate any time on the stage. He is in the pink of condition despite rumors to the contrary. He is 1,000 per cent. better than he ever was. His fight with Ruhlin showed that. And if there are any doubting Thomases I will place Jeffries in the hands of any reputable physician to convince the public that talk of lack of condition is untrue. Jeffries weighes 250 pounds now, more than he has weighed in some time. Of course he takes a drink; all athletes who have to train should do so. But he only drinks in moderation, and that, I am sure, is not going to hurthim."

"What about the offer from the National

tion, and that, I am sure, is not going to hurt him."

"What about the offer from the National Sporting Club of London for a limited round bout between Jeffries and Fitzsimmons?"

"I have not heard about it," said Delaney; but even if it were true we would not accept, for we could get ten times the amount in this country that the English people would be willing to hang up.

Delaney last night had a talk with Billy Madden relative to matching "Denver" Ed Martin against Jeffries Delaney told Madden that Jeffries would not care to fight a colored man for the championship, but may give him a chance if all the white heavyweights see fit to give the boilermaker a wide berth. Jeffries is accompanied on his trip East by Kid Eagan and his brother Jack.

Delaney said yesterday that he never made an offer of \$1,000 to anybody who could induce Fitzsimmons again to fight Jeffries.

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Became harmony tempo such that setting -Minds Make none, on the generals of the Mountain -Attitude of his prestendary afternoon. The loose propose put up, a builded garde-loop the closet Main placeurs were few strong

GOSSIP OF THE RUNNERS.

DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO THE TWO NEW TRACKS.

Friends of Farrell and Sullivan Say There Can Be No Trouble-Jookey Club, However, Not Forgetful of Certain Tammany Influences -- Western News.

Turfmen had much to talk about last week. the purchase of the Empire City track by Frank Farrell, the fallure of the new Jamaic track to ask for dates from the Jockey Club and the departure of W. C. Whitney's Nas-turtium for England being the leading topics. Regarding the two Tammany tracks and their prospects there is a wide diversity of opinion. Many horsemen are inclined to the belief that the tracks will cause bitter war over racing affairs in this State, because when the time comes they will not be recognized by the State Racing Commission and the Jockey Club, on the ground that the men behind the tracks are not believed to have the true interests of the sport of kings

It has been asserted that the Jockey Club is not in favor of recognizing men who have-made the system of poolrooms and gambling houses such an industry in this city that no end of money has been pocketed by them. Further, it is argued that the Jockey Club officials secured a good line on the methods of certain individuals, said to be identified with the new track promoters, last season and that with the downfall of Tammany at the recent election the racing authorities concluded to take the bull by the horns. Though there was no tangible evidence of friction between the Jockey Club and the Tammany racing element, there were rumors that could not be smothered. One of them was to the effect that a certain big plunger who controlled the services of a star jockey so manipulated things that without the political pull he was able to exercise he would have been severely dealt with. There was another yarn that this plunger defled the stewards to make an example of him, but his was probably without foundation.

orsemen are still wondering what became of the warrants issued last spring at the instance of the poolroom crowd for the arrest of prominent bookmakers at Morris Park on the opening day of the spring meeting. The warrants were issued and central Office men went up to the track to execute them, but they did nothing, because they were stopped by some mysterious power Some persons believe that these warrants had comething to do with a visionary club that might have been held over the heads of the members of the different racing associations all the season by persons who stood close to the plunger referred to and those intimately associated with him. A raid upon the betting ring of any of the local tracks, whether upheld or not by the courts, would have caused no end of trouble, besides injuring the patronage, which was always above the high-water mark. It is with these facts in mind, therefore, that many turfmen feel that the Jockey Club may ultimately opposed to the two new tracks, the backers of which have been seen repeatedly in the

company of those who are said to come under the Jockey Club's ban. On the other hand, the friends of Frank What is Read doing in St. Louis. Will be shown to be should be shown to be should be shown to me who and a sixth state of the following people there. Does be should be should be shown to me who and a sixth state of the should be shown to me who and a sixth state of the should be shown to be should be should be shown to be should be should be should be shown to be should b Farrell. Tim Sullivan and others who control the Empire City and the Jamaica tracks assert that there is no way in the world for

mile and a sixteenth ng: one mile and a sixteenth:

106 | Saragamp | 91

104 | Prince Reall. 90

98 | Arua | 87

97 | Balloon | 83

95 | Shut Up. 81

92 | Bean | 78

two-year-olds; seven furiongs:

107 | Moro. 100

107 | Nor Maz 100

107 | Mac Miller 100

103 | Emma A M 100

100 | King Tatius 100 W. B. Gates. Strangest... Arak. Swordsman. Ignis.
Sixth Race
James Fitz.
Insolence...
Dr. Hart...

CHESS.

Preparations for the Annual Cable Match -Notes of the Game.

After a consultation with the American champion, Pillsbury, the Brooklyn Committee was at last able to begin preparations for the annual cable match between this country and Great Britain. As is known, this match is played under the auspices of the Brooklyn Chess Club at this end, and under the auspieces of the British Chess Club. London. The latter sent a challenge for another match, which was accepted at once, but the Brock-lyn Club was not able to offer any dates for the contest before it had consulted Pillsbury. The latter consented to play his game over the board in London, because he does not intend to return to this country for a year or so after leaving next month for Monte Carlo. There is no doubt in the minds of the authorities here that the British Chess Club will give its consent to such an arrangement. Brooklyn has offered to the British Chess Club the following dates to select from: March 14 and 15 March 21 and 22, or March 28 and 29. It is to be hoped that the dates for the latter part of the month of March will be accepted as otherwise Marshall, who will leave for Monte Carle on Jan 11 can scarcely be back in time to participate in the match.

In addition to Pillsbury the following ad-

ditional American players have been asked to take part in the match: Showalter, Barry, Hodges, Hymes, Voigt, Bampton, Newmann and Marshall. It will thus be seen that there is still a vacancy, which, in all probability will be filled by Howell.

The record by years is as follows

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MAJOR AND MINOR GOLFERS.

CHAMPIONS IN MANY PARTS OF THE LAND.

The Records Show a Widespread Interest in the Game-Two Sixteen-Year-Old Players of Renewn -- Some Holders of Double Honors -Day Events New Year's

Unquestionably it is a little that is over-

worked, yet as there is no substitute quite as good it is hard to avoid the term che mpion. The amateur champion is Walter J. Travis, who won the honor at the Atlantic City Country Club in September, by beating the Chicago boy, Walter Egan, in the final. The champion of the Western Golf Association is Phelps B. Hoyt of Glenview, and Findlay S. Douglas, Nassau Country, holds the championship of the Metropolitan Golf Association. In 1800, when Herbert M. Harriman won the M G A title he afterward won the national championship, and Walter J Travis scored similar "double event" in 1900. There was hope that Douglas would have done the same last year, but he succumbed in the semi-finals to Travis. The championship of the Philadelphia Golf Association is held by W. Poultney Smith, Huntingdon Valley. and the Boston championship, at the first meeting of the newly organized league, was won by L. P. Myers of Yale. A. G. Lockwood, Allston, was the favorite, but after winning the score medal, with 159, he was put out at match play by Ralph Cracknell of Wollaston. The minor championships began very early in the year with the victory of a New Yorker, C. L. Tappin of Westbrook, in the southern Florida championship, played on Feb 20 at Ia'm Beach. Two days later, at the Los Angeles Country Club, the cham-pionship of southern California was captured by Walter Fairbanks, an old Westward Ho! player, but a resident of Denver and a member and the best player of the Overland Park Golf Club. In March the All-Florida championship at St. Augustine was won by a Washington, D. C., player, Dr. L. L. Harban, and in the same month the oldest of the Southern championships, in which the trophy is the Southern Cross cup, was won at the annual tournament of the Palmetto Golf Club, Aiken, by Marion Wright, Philadelphia Cricket Club. The All-California championship at the San Francisco Golf Club in April was won by J. A. Folger, Oakland Golf Club. The Southern and Cali-fornian championships will be repeated on about the same dates early in 1902

"How widespread is the interest in the royal and ancient game" is revealed by the following list of winners in recognized champ onships: Wisconsin State, Hamilton Vose, Milwaukee Country: Colorado State, Frank L. Woodward, Overland Park: Maine State, Harris B. Fenn. Poland Spring; Con-necticut State, Charles H. Sceley, Wee Burn; Central New York League, J. G. Averell. Rochester: New Jersey State. Allan Kennaday. Montclair: Iowa State, Robert H. Finkbine, Des Moines: Lower Lakes League, Walter Powers, Rochester: Canada, W. F. H. Kerr. Toronto, Trans-Mississippi Association, John Stuart, Des Moines: Indiana State, L. Lillard; East Jersey League, Howard Giffen, East

Two of the foregoing winners, Fenn and Giffen, the latter gaining his title for the second year, are only 16 years old. They second year, are only 16 years old. They play with the dash and skill of a Vardon and may be regarded as fine types of the "rising generation" of players. Many of the minor champions have made bids for National honors, among them Seeley, Kennaday, Woodward, Fairbanks, Tappin and Douglas, who gained the title in 1898, and the day may not be far distant when the prediction of W. B. Thomas, when President of the United States Golf Association, may be fulfilled and the field in the National amateur championships be made up only of the winners of championships in the minor associations formed on geographical or other lines.

The schoolnoys of the East have an annual championship, the event having originated and always been managed by Cutler School of this city. The former holders of the title, G. Owen Winston and H. B. Hollins, Jr., were both Cutler boys, but neither played this year, being at college. The winner was Pierre A. Proal of Bluke School, and the runner-up Enos P. Wilder, Jr., of St. Paul's, Copcord. Proal played during the season on the Fox Hills Golf Club team and well sustained the reputation gained by his victory at the Oakland Golf Club, the scene of the interscholastic tourney. The Liter-collegiate Golf Association at its meeting last week, selected May 5 and the three succeeding days for its team and individual championships in 1902. The intercollegiate champion is Herbert Lindsley of Harvard The champions of the five colleges in the league are Harvard. A. M. Brown, Yale, C. Hitchcock, Jr. University of Pennsylvania, play with the dash and skill of a Vardon and Annex, a 2 200 belimont, a 5 2 Annex Manhattan Atlantic Glenmore

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CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

P. O. Box 289.

Athletes Not Afraid of Rain-Two of Them in Lively Finish.

The rain of yesterday had little terror for the, cross-country runners as the usual coterie the. cross-country runners as the usual coteric congregated for the weekly run on the Jerome avenue course. Sixteen sparsely clad athletes lined up at the start, and though it was raining hard the bunch bounded away quite heedless of a drenching. A journey of five and a half miles was begun in the direction of Fleetwood Park, and over it the pack sped at a rattling pace. For the last three or four weeks Chobosky of the Shamrock Harriers has managed to come home in front, but early in the race yesterday it was apparent that if this runner was to retain his laurels he would have to put on extra steam. After about a mile of the water-soaked ground had been traversed Chobosky was in the lead, but here he was overhauled by Marks of the Pastime A. C. who was in the van for a mile, only to give way to Trede of the Shamrock Harriers From that to the finish it was nip and tuck between the pair of "Shamrocks" and the "Indian."

Two hundred yards from the finish at 177th street Trede and Chobosky shot forward, and the sprint home was the sturdiest ever seen on a cross-country course. Trede just managed to squeeze in ahead of Chobosky by half a yard. The winner's time was 33 minutes 46 seconds. Marks was third, Fred. Steubenthaer. Shamrock Harriers, fourth, and F. Metchinhehan, Shamrock Harriers, fourth, and F. Metch congregated for the weekly run on the Jerome

Syracuse University Crew Plans. SYRACUSE, Dec. 29 -Active training for the Syracuse University crew will begin this the Syracuse University crew will begin this week, when the candidates will be put on the machines. The crew men will have comfortable quarters, a new boathouse having been completed. Two new cedar shells are being made by Hoyle of Ithaca. For the annual regutta on Onondaga Lake a race will be arranged with the Laureates of Troy, or the Dauntiess crew of New York. E. R. Sweetland has not been signed to take charge of all the athletics at the university, but the authorities hope to be able to get him next month. Two new coaches are to be hired to take directions from Sweetland.

Bowling Games To-night.